



## Continuity of Operation Planning / Continuity of Government Newsletter

Edition No. 6, January 2008

This newsletter is developed to inform employees of the State of Colorado on the efforts being performed to ensure the recovery of critical functions and the safety of employees in the face of man-made, or natural disaster.

### Introduction

Welcome to the Sixth edition of the COOP/COG newsletter. This newsletter is intended to keep employees informed about this important effort which could affect us all as employees and also residents of Colorado. This newsletter will be produced on a regular basis to show the progress being made and benefits to citizens, employees, and State government itself. Feel free to ask questions and provide feedback as this is a collaborative effort that affects everyone.

### Networking with your Peers

In the world we live in today, networking with peers is an effective method of expanding your knowledge and expertise in areas we work in, hobbies, recreation, etc. This newsletter is a source for that, as are meetings and forums. A couple that I would like to draw your attention to is the Denver Intergovernmental COOP Working Group and the Association of Continuity Planners.

The Denver Intergovernmental COOP Working Group is made up of Federal, State and Local participants who organize a quarterly forum on Emergency Management and Continuity topics as well as a annual conference. The group is sponsored by FEMA Region 8 who are responsible for supporting and enhancing the capability of government the region to recover. The next quarterly meeting is January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1pm at the Denver Federal Center Lakewood campus in building 25 auditorium. It is free to attend and you don't need to sign up.

The Association of Contingency Planners is a international group with a local chapter that meets monthly. The Colorado chapter is made up primarily of private sector business recovery representatives. Here is the web site if you wish to get more information about this. <http://www.acp-international.com/> is the national web site and the local chapter at <http://www.crmc-acp.org/>

Feel free to give me a call if you need more information about these events.

### 'Presenteeism'

We all understand that Government employees, more or less, are not in it for the money and are drawn to public service for the public good vs. themselves. This is visible when you see employees working early or working late, or both, accumulating large amounts of vacation leave and coming to work with minor illness or injury. With the thoughts of pandemic flu on the horizon, this dedication can be a double edged sword in that yes, productivity does continue, at least to some extent, in the single threaded roles we have while the risk of a potentially debilitating illness is spread across the entire work place. This article termed the phase 'presenteeism' as an off shoot of the term absenteeism and the risks it poses and strategies to address it.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/news03702.htm>

### The Main Message

I always think its important to re-state the message and goal as often as possible. So here it is again in bullet form.

- The immediate focus will be on functions in the Denver Metro area in phase 1, prior to August 2008,
- The goal is to have an adequate workable plan that is understood by those who will use it,

- The review of the plans is to identify what has been done in the past and how it can be utilized for the plans today,
- It is more important for the planner to be comfortable with the plan vs. holding the template format,
- Exercises will be scheduled beginning the second quarter of 2008
- Mitigation of plan assumptions or directions will take place after the exercise as well as mitigation of any processes, practices, equipment, facilities or staffing issues found during the exercises to the extent possible.

**For more information**

Kent Smiley  
COOP/COG Program Manager  
303 866 3830 (Office)  
[kent.smiley@state.co.us](mailto:kent.smiley@state.co.us)